

Northeastern Area

Program Overview

The 20 Northeast and Midwest States and the District of Columbia are home to nearly 43 percent of the Nation's population, 85 percent of which (102 million residents) live within 32 million acres of urban forests. The amount of the region's land classified as "urban" nearly tripled between 1950 and 1990. For many urban residents, the urban forest is the only forest they encounter.

The Urban and Community Forestry (U&CF) Program in the Northeastern Area encourages communities to appreciate and manage their forest resources through public involvement, commitment, and action. Working with State foresters and other partners, the program helps States and communities assess and monitor urban forest health and establish or restore urban green space, and it offers educational material, land-use planning, disaster response, and tree inventory and database management capabilities.

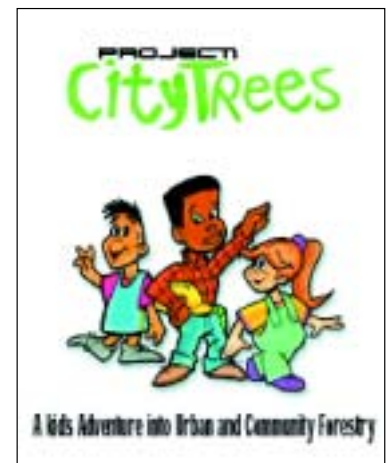
Program Accomplishments

The USDA Forest Service and its State partners assisted more than 5,200 communities in fiscal year (FY) 2002—37 percent of all cities and towns in the Northeast and Midwest. The Northeastern Area awarded 51 grants totaling more than \$7.5 million. State and local groups added \$12 million in funds or services, including nearly 1.6 million hours of training and volunteer labor for tree surveys, planting, and care. Another 40 grants worth \$3 million were postponed because funds were needed to battle catastrophic wildfires in the western United States.

After the terrible events of September 11, 2001, people sought fitting memorials to victims of the tragedy and ways to honor acts of heroism. Responding to many requests, the USDA Forest Service initiated the Living Memorials Project, which will help people create lasting "living memorials" to the victims of terrorism, their families, their communities, and the Nation. The U&CF Program provided leadership and funding for 33 living memorials in the New York City metropolitan area, southwestern Pennsylvania, and Washington, DC. Technical assistance and new online tools at <http://www.livingmemorialsproject.net> will continue to help people evoke the life-affirming, healing power of trees, while creating healthier landscapes and healthier communities.

The Northeastern Area provided state-of-the-art technical assistance and training through its Centers for U&CF based in Massachusetts, Minnesota, and Pennsylvania. This year's projects included the following:

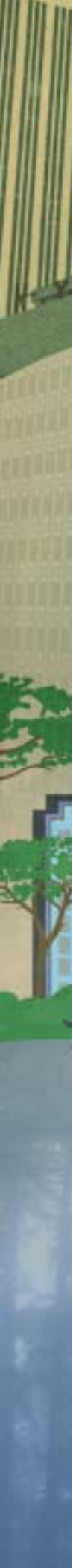
- Dialogue on Diversity helps natural resource managers connect with underserved communities, gaining more participation from residents and local businesses.



- Project City Trees introduces kindergarten-through-third-grade youngsters to fictional cartoon characters that teach urban natural resources concepts.
- Mobile Community Tree Inventory developed software that is now available on line. It uses personal data assistants (PDAs) to help managers quickly collect and analyze the condition of trees at the community scale.

The U&CF Program continued to revitalize communities in metropolitan and inner-city areas. Beyond the Title VIII projects detailed in this publication, key projects were completed in FY 2002 in the following cities:

- Philadelphia—USDA Forest Service staff, with support from Philadelphia's managing director, convened city, State, and Federal partners to develop green neighborhood projects.
- Yonkers, NY—Local residents and churches planted and improved trees in two low-income neighborhoods as part of a series of "tree stewardship festivals" organized by Groundwork Yonkers.
- New York City—More than 1 million people visited an interactive Web site, <http://www.oasisnyc.net>, to learn how to identify and evaluate opportunities for tree planting and open space across the metropolitan region.
- Boston—EarthWorks Projects removed invasive plant species in the city's "urban wilds" parkland and worked with neighboring residents to plant 1,600 native trees and shrubs, enhancing biodiversity and erosion control and to instill greater "ownership" by the community.
- Springfield, MA—A citizen-based Neighborhood Tree Steward training program was established, providing residents in eight Enterprise neighborhoods with instruction and expertise resulting in their planting and maintaining more than 230 trees in the program's first year.

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- Syracuse, NY—Municipal staff and volunteers were trained to inventory, assess, and maintain trees in parks, resulting in a video to stimulate similar programs by Cooperative Extension organizations nationwide.
 - Baltimore, MD—The Parks and People Foundation completed a model action plan with Franklin Square Elementary School, including an outdoor classroom in which almost a full city block of impermeable black-topped surfaces are being removed and replaced with green space.
 - Madison, WI—The Urban Open Space Foundation engaged 60 community residents in efforts to restore 26 acres of newly conserved prairie and woodland spaces, called "Troy Gardens," in the heart of Madison's diverse Northside.
 - Davenport, IA—An inner-city park was established and trees planted and improved in LeClaire Heights, an area with many neglected vacant lots and open spaces.

- Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN—The Twin Cities Tree Trust targeted 22 diverse neighborhoods in an effort to raise awareness and to plant and care for trees.
- District of Columbia—More than 500 volunteers completed a tree census using PDA technology. With neighborhood residents throughout the city, the GCA Casey Tree Endowment Fund counted and classified more than 100,000 trees and 15,000 planting spaces.

As efforts to eradicate the Asian longhorned beetle continued in Chicago and New York City, a new outbreak was discovered in Jersey City, NJ. Another pest, the voracious emerald ash borer (EAB), led to a five-county quarantine around Detroit, an area that covers more than 2,000 square miles. Millions of dollars have been spent removing and replanting more than 7,000 trees in densely populated neighborhoods through projects such as Chicago GreenStreets and Trees New York. Cost estimates show these efforts will be dwarfed by the urgent need to halt the spread of EAB beyond its current confines over the next decade.

Connecticut

Program Overview

Connecticut is a highly urbanized State that is also heavily forested. According to the latest USDA Forest Service figures, 60 percent of the State is forested. At the same time, approximately 80 percent of Connecticut citizens live in urban or suburban environments. Thus, virtually all citizens of Connecticut live in close proximity to trees. The health and well-being of the urban forest is of concern to everyone in the State.

Program Accomplishments

During FY 2002, the small grants program, the America the Beautiful Program, offered funding to 33 projects. Among these projects was the inventory of trees on the historic East Haven Green, coupled with the publication of a guidebook that serves to call attention to the maintenance needs of these trees. It also funded the planting of more than 30 trees by various neighborhood groups in Bridgeport, Connecticut's largest city, and the planting of 15 trees in Sterling, along Connecticut's eastern border. Each of these projects addressed specific and different needs, yet were all very successful in promoting the goals and techniques of urban forestry. An America the Beautiful Grant funded the planting of 13 flowering trees on the grounds of the Artist Collective in Hartford, an inner city academy dedicated to the arts. Established programs, such as the Meskwaka Volunteer Training Program and the Tree Wardens Association of Connecticut, continue to make substantial progress toward their goals of outreach and education. The Tree Wardens Academy held a very successful third year of instruction, with some 27 newly certified tree wardens completing the course of study and then passing the exam. While tree warden certification is not required for an individual to be appointed to that position, widespread certification of tree wardens is a goal of both the Urban and Community Forest Council and the Tree Wardens Association.

The Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection (CTDEP), Division of Forestry hired Christina Stacey as seasonal research assistant to review the tree planting success of the America the Beautiful Grant Program. Christina researched all grants over the previous 5 years and identified 86 projects from 52 towns as tree planting projects. She then visited each of these towns and inspected the tree planting locations from these grants—1,864 trees total. Of these, 1,614 were still present and 1,370, or 73 percent of the original total, were found to be in good or better condition. Christina also studied the influence of various factors on the success of these planting projects, and had some very specific recommendations to pass on to the CT DEP and the Urban and Community Forest Council. Chief among the factors and recommendations was the importance of committed individuals and clearly defined goals.



Connecticut Lt. Governor Jodi Rell, City Forester John Kehoe, John Brodeur and Brian Cliff plant trees in Hartford, to commemorate the National Tree Trusts planing of 10 million trees.



Chris Donnelly, Connecticut Urban Forestry Coordinator discusses street tree inventory methods at a workshop in Norwalk.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 141
Number of communities assisted: 83
Number of Tree City USA communities: 10
Number of trees planted: 522
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 844
Number of hours of training provided: 3,775

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Delaware

Program Overview

The Delaware Forest Service U&CF Program assists Delaware's communities with the proper planning, management, and maintenance of trees, forested areas, and other natural resources. The protection of the State's community forest resources is essential as Delaware's communities continue to expand and grow.

Program Accomplishments

The Delaware Forest Service U&CF Program partnered with Kent County Parks and Recreation Department to relocate more than 125 trees from the former Taber State Forest Biomass Wood Utilization Study Area to several county-owned parks. The Delaware Forest Service staff provided technical assistance to support the successful transplanting of a mix of 4- to 6-inch-caliper native hardwood tree species, which improved tree cover within several Kent County communities.

The U&CF Program expanded its partnership with the historic community of Knollwood to assist the neighboring subdivision of Bancroft Heights. The subdivision was built in the early 1920s for the workers of the Citistee USA, Claymont, DE, plant. Both of these communities continue to suffer from urban blight. To improve the communities' appearances, New Castle County Housing, Inc., Citistee USA, and the U&CF Program continued to provide technical and financial support to redevelopment programs for both communities.

Through cooperative efforts of the Delaware Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, Division of Soil & Water—Non Point Source Pollution Program, the Delaware Forest Service will expand the total dollars offered through its annual subgrant program in urban and community forestry. To enhance services to Delaware communities, the U&CF Program will now be able to offer double the traditional amount of grant dollars to improve the State's urban and community forest resources. Within the 2002 U&CF grant packet, Delaware's community leaders will find several traditional grants for tree management and tree planting activities, and one new subgrant designed to improve water quality and address stormwater management issues in the State.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 68

Number of communities assisted: 68

Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 165

Number of Tree City USA communities: 15

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District of Columbia

Program Overview

For U&CF activities within the District of Columbia, FY 2002 was a year of significant progress, both in terms of forestry operations and visibility. Bolstered by a tremendous amount of support from Mayor Anthony A. Williams, the District's tree program was in the news and local television media several dozen times, and more than 10,000 residents, community groups, and others requested information or service regarding the District's trees.

Program Accomplishments

Within the District Department of Transportation, the Urban Forestry Administration is responsible for planting and caring for the District's 100,000-plus street trees. It is also the lead agency that provides advice and guidance to other city agencies, community groups, and others on tree and landscape issues districtwide. Some of the work and accomplishments of the administration in FY 2002 include the following:

- Passed a tree preservation ordinance that protects trees 18 inches and more in diameter on both public and private property throughout the district.
- Established the District Champion Trees Program, formed to identify and publish a list of large trees in the District of Columbia.
- Established the "Right Trees Right Place Program," an initiative undertaken with the local electric power utility, with the goal of removing damaged and disfigured trees located under power lines and replacing them with appropriate trees that will not interfere with overhead utilities.
- Planted more than 4,000 trees, pruned 15,000 trees, and removed more than 2,000 dead trees.

More than 500 trained volunteers participated in the largest volunteer street tree inventory in the country this year. The Casey Trees Endowment Fund, a nonprofit organization established in 2001, conducted the district-wide street tree inventory with the assistance of the Urban Forestry Administration, a grant from the USDA Forest Service, college interns in the



environmental science field, and professionals who guided the citizen volunteers and checked diligently for quality assurance of the data. This data is now the basis of the Urban Forestry Administration's new street tree inventory system.

Community Resources, Inc., continued its Street Tree Stewardship program this year with a funding boost from the District of Columbia State Forester through the U&CF Program and planted more than 100 trees in the Shaw neighborhood. The program teaches residents in lower income neighborhoods the value trees and greenery bring to the whole city. Since it began 3 years ago, the survival rate of the trees planted under the program has consistently been above 95 percent.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 11
Number of communities assisted: 10
Number of hours of training provided: 700
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 30,000
Number of trees planted: 4,000

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Illinois

Program Overview

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), Division of Forest Resources, U&CF Program helps communities and other units of local government develop or expand U&CF Programs; increase the awareness of urban forestry in Illinois; and plant, protect, and maintain trees in open spaces, green belts, parks, and residential developments. The Illinois U&CF Program helps communities and urban areas sustain the health and integrity of the forest resources in and around their communities. The IDNR works toward establishing and maintaining local community forestry programs by providing technical assistance, disseminating information, enhancing partnerships, and providing resources and recognition.

Program Accomplishments

Through the volunteer coordination provided contractually through the University of Illinois for Central and Northern Illinois, a new Regional U&CF Council was created in the south suburban area of Cook and surrounding counties. This council has served as a vehicle for providing technical assistance and educational training in the areas of tree risk management, new tree planting technologies, and tree and development concepts. The project was organized and conducted by Scott Bretthauer, extension specialist in urban forestry, the IDNR's contractual community forestry volunteer coordinator for Central and Northern Illinois.

The Springfield Urban Forestry Administration established the first ever Blue Ribbon Committee on U&CF. The committee's purpose was to review and provide recommendations on the future of U&CF in Illinois. The committee recommended that the core program be maintained, funding be provided for the U&CF Grant Program, dedicated U&CF staff be hired, and educational outreach on the important topics related to tree care continue to be provided.

Several new communities were reached through contractual support of Southern Illinois University. A tree seedling distribution program was used to initiate conversation with communities that typically had not requested or received community forestry assistance. This outreach program worked with 22 new communities. These communities received nearly 350 seedlings for planting on public property. Once communication lines were opened, the opportunity was used to distribute educational and informational brochures in addition to the free seedlings. Time was spent with each community individually to discuss the importance of good community forest management. Specific management issues discussed included proper tree-planting techniques, including placing the right tree in the right place; proper tree care; and proper tree pruning, including the negative impacts that topping has on trees. Also, information was provided about the Tree City USA Program. This project was organized and conducted by David D. Close, community forestry volunteer coordinator for Southern Illinois University.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 227
Number of communities assisted: 227
Number of Tree City USA communities: 172
Number of trees planted (seedlings): 44,575
Number of days: 973
Number of hours of training provided of volunteer assistance to program: 1826

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Indiana

Program Overview

The Community and Urban Forestry (C&UF) Program provides statewide leadership to increase public awareness of the value of trees and associated natural resources in urban areas, where more than 70 percent of Indiana citizens live. The program assists and encourages Indiana communities and volunteers to protect, expand, and improve community forests. The program strives to help citizens make the connection between rural and urban forests, and to incorporate the ideology that the urban forest is part of the community infrastructure.

Program Accomplishments

In addition to conducting our regular grant program, we awarded special project grants to Keep Indianapolis Beautiful (KIB), and to the Indiana Arborist Association (IAA). KIB used the funding to produce radio spots and to pay for specific internet advertising regarding the benefits of urban forestry. The spots were on two popular radio stations during the morning commute. KIB also initiated a riparian tree-planting project at Chapel Glen School. The entire school participated in the effort. The IAA hosted and financially sponsored 60 certified arborists to complete ArborMaster training.

C&UF organized People and Trees—A Festival of Growth at the Governor's residence. The event attracted more than 500 people and included the IAA Tree Climbing Jamboree; a wood utilization demonstration by crafters; Wood-Mizer sawmill demonstration with seven industrial arts high school classes; and the Tree City USA awards event. Governor and Mrs. O'Bannon spent the entire day outdoors visiting with the 500 guests. In addition, they presented the Tree City USA awards to each Tree City USA community, posed for photos with them, and spent time visiting with individuals from each Tree City USA community present.

C&UF hosted the Northeastern Area Association of State Foresters (NAASF) annual summer meeting with the goal of demonstrating the links between traditional and urban forestry. The meeting was held in downtown Indianapolis, and a day-long bus tour was included, which highlighted urban projects that had traditional forestry values. The bus tour featured discussion with two city foresters: Jason Kissel of Indianapolis and Lee Huss of Bloomington. The tour included stops at an urban wood utilization project called 'Trees to Furniture,' where the log yard was highlighted, and White River, where the group viewed an urban flood plain reclamation area. The group also visited Holliday Park Nature Center and Ft. Harrison State Park, two popular urban forests in and around Indianapolis. Not only did NAASF members and their guests learn more about the potential link between urban forestry and traditional forestry projects, but Division of Forestry staff learned more about the C&UF.



Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 453
Number of communities assisted: 404
Number of hours of training provided: 176
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 118,050
Number of trees planted: 6,270
Number of Tree City USA communities: 45
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 10

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Iowa

Program Overview

The Iowa U&CF Program serves as a valuable resource to the State's residents. The role of the program is to provide broad-based technical, educational, and financial assistance to communities, individuals, and organizations. The result is improved awareness of urban forestry and its practices and the benefits of managing a sustained and healthy natural resource.

Program Accomplishments

Operation Releaf

The Iowa Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in partnership with Alliant Energy, coordinated 20 residential tree distribution projects through Operation Releaf. A total of 8,437 landscape trees (6-8 feet tall and 21 containerized species) were distributed to 4,134 Alliant Energy customers at 50 percent of the retail price. More than \$394,000 worth of trees (retail value of \$674,960) were purchased from 42 local nurseries and garden centers, and 543 trained volunteers assisted with tree planting and care. Alliant Energy has indicated that they wish to participate again in FY 2003 to duplicate these initial efforts.

Million More by 2004

Using \$250,000 in State grant funds, the Million More by 2004 supported a total of 93 community projects that resulted in the planting of 5,050 new landscape trees on public properties across the State. Community leaders developed proposals, provided a dollar-for-dollar match, and agreed to 5-year maintenance agreements. This was the third year of this effort, and will be the final year due to State budget cuts. More than 15,000 trees were planted with a value of more than \$2 million to local nurseries and garden centers during the life of the program.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 594
Number of communities assisted: 526
Number of days of volunteer assistance to the program: 54,153
Number of trees planted: 15,475
Number of Tree City USA communities: 123
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 40

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Maine

Program Overview

Maine is blessed with a rich natural resource base and is the most forested State in the Nation. As a result, citizens often don't see the need for long-term community forestry planning. Yet, in a time when forest fragmentation, sprawl, and liquidation harvesting top local news, the need for comprehensive community forestry programs could not be greater. Project Canopy, Maine's community forestry program, works to increase awareness about the benefits trees provide and encourage public involvement in community forestry programs.

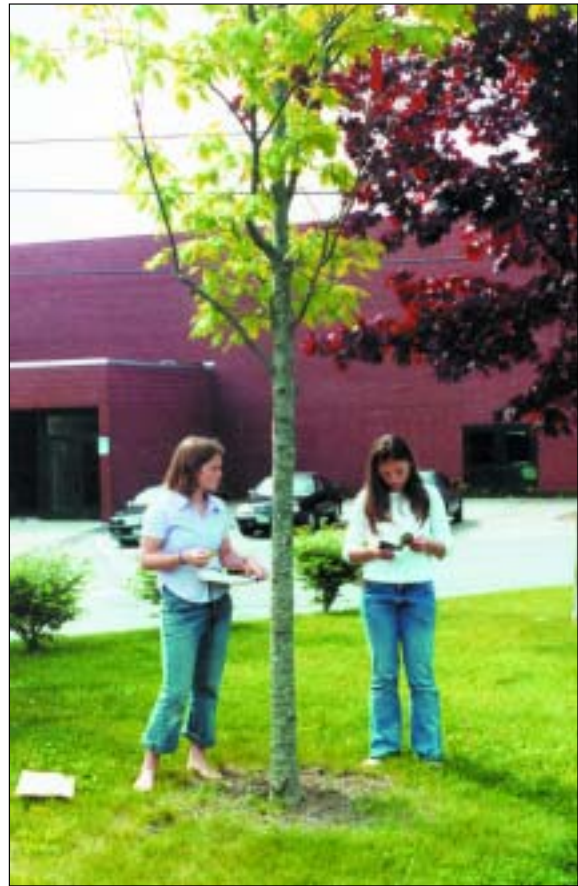
Program Accomplishments

Project Canopy initiated an aggressive media campaign, through newspaper, radio, and television infomercials, to increase the public's awareness of community forestry and the services that Project Canopy can provide. In addition to staging the media campaign, the project fostered public awareness and citizen involvement through technical assistance, tree steward workshops, newsletters, participation in fairs and community events, and training sessions for local government. The following examples of projects conducted in the past year range from an established program to a program just beginning:

The City of Biddeford, with strong municipal and citizen support, started a Project Canopy Committee and developed a community forestry plan of action. During an Arbor Week celebration, the committee established a tree nursery, planted trees, and turned a local park into an outdoor classroom for local school children.

The Town of Corinna was once home to a large woolen mill that, when removed, left polluted soil and water in its wake. The site of the former mill is now classified as an EPA Superfund site. The town and the EPA are in the middle of a massive remediation effort that, with the formation a Project Canopy committee, now includes recreation trails and newly planted trees in parks and green spaces.

The School Tree Education Mastery (STEM) Program in Bath, ME, involves and educates youth about the environment and the benefits of trees in urban settings. Sponsored by the Bath Community Forestry Committee and the Bath Department of Cemeteries and Parks, STEM resulted in 100 students from local middle and high schools completing an inventory of 270 public trees. Beyond assisting the town and gaining students a better understanding of the role trees play in their environment, this program also furthered the incorporation of natural science subject matter in school curricula. The Town of Washburn brought together municipal leaders, citizens, and school students to plant trees in two town parks. Volunteers learned



High school students conduct tree inventory in Bath.

proper planting and tree care techniques, and a brochure was produced that serves as a guide for residents visiting the parks and a learning tool for students.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 179
Number of communities assisted: 133
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 2,196
Number of trees planted: 1,506
Number of Tree City USA communities: 11

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Maryland

Program Overview

The Maryland U&CF Program supports and encourages urban natural resource stewardship throughout the State. With program functions ranging from protecting trees during development, to working with community groups on tree planting projects, Maryland's U&CF Program is a progressive, far-reaching, and comprehensive effort to enhance the urban forest function and increase forest cover in the State.

Program Accomplishments

Revitalizing Baltimore (RB) is one of many initiatives active in Maryland. RB is a regional partnership strengthening community-based efforts to improve urban natural resources supported by the USDA Forest Service and managed by the Parks & People Foundation in cooperation with the Maryland State Forester. This national model for community forestry and watershed organizing equips people to care for natural resources and to employ these resources to revitalize their neighborhoods. Over the last 8 years, RB has been focusing its efforts along stream valleys and in neighborhoods with significant tree deficits, helping to "green" 45 neighborhoods by planting more than 5,500 street trees and 11,800 riparian plants in more than 500 projects, involving more than 3,000 volunteers, annually. RB has also provided stewardship education to more than 10,700 students and 600 adults. RB's 20 partnering organizations include the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Forest Service, Baltimore City, Baltimore County, several nonprofit organizations, three watershed associations, businesses, and academic institutions. RB actively reaches out to culturally diverse communities to help residents plant trees along streets and streams, transform vacant lots to community green spaces, restore parks and schoolyards, and support youth education and adult training to foster stewardship of natural resources.

During FY 2002, RB supported community forestry activities among partner agencies and neighborhood groups through community organizing, technical assistance, volunteer training, and logistical support. This resulted in planting 2,002 street trees, more than doubling last year's production, by effectively implementing the USDA Forest Service Title VIII and inner-city grants. RB also maintained 4,200 street trees and 12,000



Blacktop is being removed at the Franklin Square Elementary School. The first phase of removal and planting included this reading circle designed by the students.

riparian plants as part of 125 projects involving 3,200 volunteers who logged 8,100 work hours. RB expanded a successful demonstration project at Franklin Square Elementary School (inner-city grant to six other city schools, removing asphalt and restoring schoolyard habitats).

Statistical Highlights

Number of communities assisted: 354
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 10,808
Number of Tree City USA communities: 36
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 9
Number of Tree Line USA Awards: 3

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Massachusetts

Program Overview

With dense populations and vast town forests, along with a tremendous resource of town commons and conservation land, the people of Massachusetts have come to expect the comfort and beauty of trees in their neighborhoods. Through technical assistance, education, and grant funding, the Department of Environmental Management (DEM) provides assistance to communities in their efforts to build support for community forest resources. Planning and Education grants support local efforts to develop sustained U&CF programs in Massachusetts towns and cities. Heritage Tree Care grants provide funds for professional care of large and historically significant trees in public landscapes. Through a mix of State and private funding, the Massachusetts ReLeaf Fund—a trust fund established by the legislature—supports tree-planting projects throughout the Commonwealth.

Program Accomplishments

The DEM's Urban Forestry Program, in partnership with the Massachusetts Community Forestry Council, completed a 5-year strategic planning process. The plan identifies five broad categories of concern and activities (stewardship, funding, awareness, tree canopy, and management), which encompass a healthy U&CF Program. In addition to the full plan document, the DEM prepared a colorful, attractive poster that summarizes and concisely communicates the salient points of the plan.

Using Federal funding, the DEM awarded 17 Planning and Education grants totaling \$93,000 to communities and nonprofit entities throughout the State. These grants focused on topics of community awareness, forest inventories, invasive species control, and innovative youth programs. In addition, the DEM awarded 14 Heritage Tree grants totaling \$34,000 to communities to provide arboricultural care for large and historically significant trees. Examples of these grants are given below.

Nuestras Raices, Inc., an inner-city community development agency dealing largely with minority populations within the City of Holyoke, received a Planning and Education grant from the DEM. The goal of the project was two-fold: first, to train youth from inner-city Holyoke to assess trees on the planned canal walkway through the city's historic center, and second, to encourage this small group of youth leaders to pursue further studies in forestry. The youth presented their assessment to the city, and their work has been incorporated into the restoration plan for the canal. The Town of Marshfield Historical Commission was awarded a Heritage Tree grant to perform crown cleaning and bracing of nine trees on the Historic Daniel Webster Estate. The estate is a veritable arboretum that was created in the mid-19th century by the great



Volunteers assist Earthworks with tree planting on urban wilds restoration project in Boston (Grant-Earthworks).



Massachusetts DEM provides heritage tree grants to help preserve historic trees.

statesman Daniel Webster. The trees that received care through these grant funds are all either original trees planted by Mr. Webster or a second generation of trees he planted. One tree in particular, the "Great Linden" (an outstanding *Tilia cordata*), is a registered State champion, with an estimated planting date of 1640.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 224
Number of communities assisted: 135
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 748
Number of Tree City USA communities: 68

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Michigan

Program Overview

The Michigan Urban and Community Forestry (MUCF) Program serves as a valuable resource to the State's nearly 7.5 million urban residents. The role of the program is to provide broad-based technical, educational, and financial assistance to communities, individuals, and organizations. The result is improved awareness of urban forestry, its practices, and the benefits of managing a sustained and healthy natural resource.

Program Accomplishments

The City of Battle Creek recently completed a 2-year project to create a tree management plan based on community perceptions of local urban forestry needs. The project demonstrated excellent use of community feedback through survey participation, conducted a street tree inventory, identified 1,098 trees in hazardous condition, and established a goal to plant 450 new trees each year to offset annual losses and increase overall tree cover. Together with the Greening of Detroit, the MUCF Program funded the planting of 2,993 trees in 22 communities and 16 schools, involving more than 1,000 volunteers. Additional projects included sponsoring an annual bare-root tree sale (2,450 trees), the TreeKeeper series of workshops for 50 adults, and education programs for nearly 3,000 students.

Since the discovery of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB)—an exotic foreign pest of ash trees—this summer in Southeast Michigan, the MUCF Council has been at the forefront of management- and education-related issues. As part of the advisory council, an EAB subcommittee was developed to address awareness and education needs and identify partners. In November, this committee—the Greening of Detroit—and U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow hosted a media event in downtown Detroit to draw attention to the issue.

Throughout the year, the MUCF Program funded 11 community forestry grants and provided 6 libraries and nature centers with funding to develop and expand their U&CF reference materials. Two communities conducted tree inventories and over 800 volunteer hours were involved with these projects. As part of Michigan DNR's Cooperative Resource Management Initiative, MUCF provided nearly 300 urban assists for tree planting and technical advice. MUCF has also developed and supported other statewide projects, including the Home Depot Tool Bank and Keep Michigan Beautiful programs. These programs, administered by the volunteer coordinator, provide tools for tree care and planting and provide education for maintaining healthy and sustainable natural resources. More than 20 communities were assisted through these programs in 2002.



Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 510

Number of communities assisted: 362

Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 4,239

Number of trees planted (trees/seedlings): 8,481/52,000

Number of Tree City USA communities: 78

Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 13

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Minnesota

Program Overview

Minnesota U&CF is a cooperative effort among many entities including Federal, State, local, nonprofit, and volunteer organizations. The Department of Natural Resource (DNR) U&CF Program seeks to strengthen advocacy by local leaders and to increase the capacity of local units of government to manage their community forest resources appropriately.

Program Accomplishments

Using Federal pass-through funds, the University of Minnesota (U of MN) College of Natural Resources (CNR) created a full-time position to support dissemination of research-based information, training of citizen volunteer Tree Care Advisors (TCAs), and updating and linking key Web sites in the State. This technician is vital to the coordination of technology transfer among principle partner agencies and organizations.

In FY 2002, TCAs began to accept leadership roles in the Minnesota Shade Tree Advisory Council. The new council president, co-chair of the Legislative Subcommittee, and editor of the e-newsletter are all graduates of the TCA Program. Their citizen perspective is proving invaluable in council meeting discussions of U&CF issues and in guiding the council's strategic planning.

DNR Forestry staff helped initiate several volunteer tree planting projects by collaborating with the Greenspace Partners, an organization of neighborhood groups in the Phillips and Powderhorn areas just south of downtown Minneapolis. The Greenspace Partners also began to clean up and landscape vacant lots that had become garbage-dumping sites. The Greenspace Partners are part of the larger Twin Cities Greening Coalition (of non-profit organizations), which supports grassroots environmental improvement activities in diverse, inner-city neighborhoods in both Minneapolis and St. Paul.

Over the past 5 years, U of MN researchers and the DNR have collected data from cities and performed autopsies on hundreds of wind-damaged and downed trees. Deep planting, resulting in stem girdling roots, was identified as the leading cause of whole tree failure. This work resulted in two publications and a companion video in English and Spanish, *A Practitioner's Guide to Stem Girdling Roots of Trees*.

A project in the city of Red Wing led to the collection and integration of key road information, including road surfaces, traffic control signs, and street trees, into one database available to all city departments. Using a Minnesota ReLeaf matching grant, the city adapted an existing database program for road surface characteristics to include data on street trees and planting spaces, resulting in the systematic monitoring and maintenance of public trees. In the process, summer workers were trained to collect and enter data, and the city staff was trained to assess risk of tree failures. Tree work orders and maintenance records are being integrated to provide for continuous updating.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 455
Number of communities assisted: 96
Hours of training provided: 14,755
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 1,667
Number of Tree City USA communities: 120
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 12

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Missouri

Program Overview

The Missouri Department of Conservation (MDC) continues to promote and support U&CF activities statewide. The MDC assists communities in developing sustainable U&CF programs through community enabling grants, promotion and coordination of volunteer-driven U&CF programs, local coordination of the Tree City USA Program, and the Missouri Community Forestry Council.

Program Accomplishments

Working closely with Forest ReLeaf of Missouri, contracted to provide State volunteer coordination in U&CF, MDC supported new and existing volunteer groups with technical and financial assistance. For example, the Treekeepers Program, which trains and utilizes volunteers for community tree maintenance, was active in Springfield, Branson, St. Joseph, and Columbia.

The Missouri Community Forestry Council (MCFC), supported by the MDC, played a key role in utilizing volunteers to educate the public about U&CF programs in the State. A public service campaign called, "Experts Agree Don't Top Your Tree," was the focus for the MCFC this year. The campaign educates the public that tree topping is not a desirable practice and provides alternatives to topping. Additional funding was secured from the Midwest Chapter of the International Society of Arboriculture and the Society of American Foresters to redesign and reprint the brochure and poster.

Outreach efforts through the Missouri Electric Cooperative Right of Way Association resulted in recognition of the Cuivre River Electric Cooperative by The National Arbor Day Foundation as Tree Line USA. Springfield City Utilities, Columbia Water and Light Department, Ameren, and Independence Power and Light were all certified as Tree Line USA in FY 2002. At the request of a nursery with many employees for

whom English is a second language, a tree-planting program was developed and presented in Spanish by MDC staff.

A new and enhanced Tree Resource Improvement and Maintenance (TRIM II) grants program was created. Recognizing the importance of developing sustainable, locally driven community tree care programs, this grant program provides cost share grants to communities for projects that help a community build or develop a community forestry program. Communities must articulate how their proposed project will advance long-range community forestry goals for their community. The grants are available for activities such as urban tree inventories, hazard tree identification and management, educational materials, tree ordinance development, and traditional activities like pruning, removal, and planting. TRIM II provided 43 grants this year totaling \$249,845.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 194
Number of communities assisted: 194
Number of hours of training provided: 1,000
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 3,880
Number of trees planted: 6,638
Number of Tree City USA Communities: 59

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New Hampshire

Program Overview

Natural resources are a vital part of New Hampshire's cultural, economic, and community structure. The State has long been famous for its great natural beauty and abundant resources, which have attracted tourists and immigrants from metropolitan areas. Four decades of rapid growth have drawn heavily on New Hampshire's resources. Some communities have experienced displacement of wildlife, loss of recreational corridors and scenic vistas, contamination of surface water and groundwater, and increased erosion and flooding. Many New Hampshire residents link these consequences of growth to a general degradation of community character. The future of New Hampshire's natural resource base depends on land use decisions made at the local level.

The New Hampshire U&CF Program is a partnership between the State Division of Forests and Lands and the University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension, which provides community forestry assistance to people and communities throughout the State. The Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth offers educational programs on forestry and horticulture to the general public. The Community Tree Steward Program trains volunteers to assist communities with public awareness, inventories and evaluations, tree planting and maintenance, fundraising, the development of ordinances, and the formation of concerned citizens committees. In every city and town the New Hampshire U&CF Program works to teach New Hampshire residents about today's critical issues.

Program Accomplishments

The Division of Forests and Lands continues to expand its capacity through the effective use of volunteers. In FY 2002, 157 New Hampshire Community Tree Stewards volunteered more than 4,270 hours assisting 69 communities. They served on tree committees, worked on landscape projects, completed tree evaluations and inventories, and helped with fundraising efforts. These activities are concentrated in the Manchester/Nashua area of the State, and in seacoast communities. In FY 2002, 60 volunteers completed a 10-week training program to become community tree stewards. Training was provided at two locations: the University of New Hampshire in Manchester and the Urban Forestry Center in Portsmouth. The training, provided by many resource professionals, includes such urban forestry topics as tree anatomy, tree physiology, tree identification, insects and diseases, proper pruning techniques,



A.J. Dupere, Urban Forestry Coordinator for New Hampshire, discusses the Hemlock Wolly Adelgid with Associate Chief Sally Collins, during a tour of New Hampshire's urban forestry center.

proper planting techniques, and soil/water relationships. It also includes training on fundraising, public speaking, presentation techniques, and field trips.

The Concord Tree Volunteers completed a street inventory of downtown Concord using Americorps volunteers and New England College students. All street trees in the downtown business district were tallied, including vacant planting sites. All the street tree locations were geo-located and maps were prepared using a geographic information system to highlight and overlay key datasets for analysis. A preliminary report on the inventory and condition of the street trees was presented to the Concord City Council.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 144
Number of communities assisted: 137
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 2,196
Number of trees planted: 1,506
Number of Tree City USA communities: 11

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New Jersey

Program Overview

Across the State, the New Jersey Forest Service Community Forestry Program is spreading the message that our urban and community forests have tremendous value and are worthy of investment. This message resulted in many activities and achievements in FY 2002.

Program Accomplishments

Conectiv Electric Utility negotiated to have \$1 million of its recent air pollution fine money donated to the New Jersey Tree Foundation (a nonprofit organization working with the Community Forestry Program) for a massive Urban Airshed Reforestation project in the Camden area. Trained volunteers are planting 3-inch caliper shade trees in the communities most directly affected by the air pollution that led to the fines. These cooperative efforts, based on Dr. David Nowak's (USDA Forest Service) Urban Forest Effects (UFORE) research findings, demonstrate the positive effects of our urban forests on the environment and health of people in urban communities.

The New Jersey No Net Loss Reforestation Act has been amended to mandate that when a State entity needs to clear a half acre or more of forest, it must first have a reforestation plan approved by the New Jersey Forest Service. All the trees will need to be replaced as near as possible to the construction site in accordance with the hierarchy of sites stipulated in the law.

The New Jersey Shade Tree and Community Forestry Assistance Act enables communities and counties in compliance to qualify for tree-related liability protection and the opportunity to compete for special grants. Compliance includes an approved Community Forestry Management Plan, appropriately trained people, and annual report submission. More than 37 percent of New Jersey communities are either working toward or already have an approved Community Forestry Management Plan.

The preservation license plate, Treasure Our Trees, has been joined by a first-ever commercial vehicle plate with the same graphics of a red oak (the New Jersey State Tree) in autumn colors and a flowering dogwood (the New Jersey Memorial Tree). This legislation was made possible through the joint efforts of the New Jersey Community Forestry Council and private-sector demand from arborists, foresters, tree nursery owners, and landscapers. Our grant programs continue to receive funds from the sale of these plates.

In FY 2002, New Jersey had 125 municipalities qualify for Tree City USA status. This earned the State the rank of sixth in the Nation and first among the Middle Atlantic States.



New Jersey Tree Foundation Royden St., Camden, NJ, before.



New Jersey tree foundation Royden St., Camden, NJ, after.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 421
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 421
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 9,963
Number of Tree City USA communities: 125

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New York

Program Overview

New York is a large and diverse State, both in its land mass and population. It is rural in nature, but more than 18 million people live on its 30 million acres. The Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) continues to train more communities, agencies, nonprofit groups, and citizens to understand U&CF and assume increasing responsibility for tracking and managing resources. By taking a more central role in monitoring and managing resources, communities develop more self-confidence and continuity in program staff and make more timely and effective management decisions. The program coordinator works with DEC foresters in each of nine regions to help deliver technical assistance and training. A community grants program funds projects to help develop sustainable programs at the local level. The FY 2002 DEC grant program funded community projects to protect municipal trees and forests and to foster partnerships, engage volunteers, and heighten awareness of the importance of trees.

Program Accomplishments

Long Island ReLeaf provided support to nine schools for tree plantings and workshops. SpruceUp Workshops were held at Gotham Avenue Elementary School in Elmont and at the Student Garden Club in Captree. Students and teachers participated in the hands-on workshop where the proper procedure for tree planting was demonstrated. Thirty-one schools have completed 40 planting projects. EsteeLauder, LIPA, and Keyspan are annual supporters.

New York State continues to use Arbor Day to raise public awareness of the importance of tree planting and care. The FY 2002 State Arbor Day celebration was held at the Governor's Mansion in Albany, NY. The ceremony was hosted by Lieutenant Governor Mary Donohue and involved Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner, Erin Crotty, who unveiled the New York State Arbor Day poster.

The State U&CF Council serves as the advisory group to the State program. The council is a nonprofit organization, and has a part-time executive director. There are 160 members total, with 28 people serving on the board of directors. Goals of the council include providing opportunities for networking between members and partners, and promoting best management practices for urban forestry through education. The council also publishes a statewide newsletter, *Taking Root*, three times per year.

NY ReLeaf and the U&CF Council partnered to present the 10th Annual U&CF Statewide Conference, "Reinventing New York's Forest-Creating Greener Communities." Although the decision to hold the statewide conference in New York City was made before the tragic events of September 11th, that fateful day



Trees New York has worked with New York DEC to replanting trees on properties impacted by the Asian Longhorned Beetle in the New York City area. (Grant-Trees New York.)



Trees planted in Brooklyn, NY, help to reestablish the canopy cover lost to the Asian Longhorned beetle. (Grant Trees New York.)

only reinforced the importance of trees, parks, and woodlands as places of solace in times of crisis.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 410
Number of communities assisted: 368
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 9,760
Number of trees planted: 19,800
Number of Tree City USA communities: 98

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Ohio

Program Overview

Ohio's Urban Forestry Program, created in 1979, is a State-supported service of the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, providing organizational and technical urban forestry assistance primarily to community officials and allied agencies. A statewide network of 6 regional urban foresters help communities manage their urban forest resources to meet local needs.

Program Accomplishments

With the consent and support of the city's parks director, the North Canton Urban Forestry Initiative Kickoff Event was held in the City of North Canton. The event, which was the initial step needed to develop and implement a comprehensive tree care program for the community, was a component of Ohio's federally funded Upper Muskingum Watershed Initiative. It was agreed that awareness of the benefits that such an urban forestry program would provide to this community of 15,600 residents would be the key to its long-term success. Dogwood Park, a community recreation center that was damaged by a tornado just a week before the event, was the selected location for the event. Local media were invited to observe 300 middle school students remove debris, mulch playground areas, and plant seedlings. The students and attendees also heard speeches from the mayor, various city council members, and State representatives, expressing their support for an improved quality of life through the full use of their urban forest resources. Seizing on the success of the kickoff event, the parks director provided a followup series of urban forestry public lectures. In addition, monthly guest columns, which addressed various urban forestry topics, appeared in the local newspaper. This urban forestry initiative was a joint effort among various nonprofit groups, local sponsors, city, and State officials. It is hoped that continued public support will lead to an administrative, legislative, and financial commitment for a long-term urban forestry program for the City of North Canton.

For the 20th consecutive year, Ohio was the national leader in the number of Tree City USA communities. Ohio's 222 designated Tree City USA cities and villages demonstrate a continuing commitment to enhancing the quality of life through the proper management of their urban forest resources.



Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 361
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 361
Number of training hours provided: 17,379
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 6,819
Number of trees planted: 58,374
Number of Tree City USA communities: 222
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 37

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Pennsylvania

Program Overview

Pennsylvania's Urban Forestry Program faces many hurdles, ranging from educational challenges in local volunteer training to physical challenges in the lack of space and degraded soils within highly urbanized areas. The Urban Forestry Program is bringing new hope to communities across the State, enabling them to reclaim their pride by beautifying their communities. The program is a partnership between the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Forestry, Pennsylvania State University State Extension, and Pennsylvania Community Forestry Council. Together, they provide the knowledge and means to establish and maintain the urban forest and improve environmental, cultural, and biological health.

Program Accomplishments

Residents in the oldest neighborhood in Erie have banded together to create a model of community participation in planting and caring for trees and community open spaces. The project in the city's Little Italy section is a partnership between Erie and Trinity Center, Penn State Extension, Pennsylvania Bureau of Forestry, Erie County Environmental Coalition, Mercyhurst College, Erie County Conservation District, and local volunteers. A tree inventory completed by the partnership recommended planting sites to the city, which responded with 80 trees during a 2-year period. Members of the Trinity Center provided an additional 17 trees and labor. Trained youth from the center then inventoried existing trees for recommended maintenance. A local artist coordinated a landscape garden and activity area in a vacant lot. Other neighborhood groups that have been replicating these activities include the Bayfront East Side Task Force, Snoops Neighborhood Watch, Central City Neighborhood Watch, and Glenwood Neighborhood Association.

Following 7 months of leadership preparation, Trinity Center youth who had earned the privilege became ambassadors across the State. They named their organization the 18th Street Community Builders. The youth prepared an art mural and presentations to illustrate their activities and understanding of community forestry in preparation for a trip to Philadelphia. Nine neighborhood high school youth and four adults took a 3-day study trip to Philadelphia, funded by the USDA Forest Service, Allegheny Earth Force, Mercyhurst College Watershed Art Project, and French Creek Project. The Erie youth participated in lectures and activities, toured the Village of Arts and



Northeastern Area-High School students from Erie, PA, visit Philadelphia and admire outdoor greenscape at Village of Arts and Humanities.

Humanities Inner City Revitalization Program, and assisted in the Village annual cleanup. The youth culminated their trip by presenting their lectures and mural to the Youth Conservation Corps at Cobbs Creek Environmental Center. New mural projects incorporated in their Erie neighborhood will illustrate the hope and understanding these youth derived from that trip.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 915
Number of communities receiving technical assistance: 628
Number of training hours provided: 25,569
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 4,205
Number of trees planted: 1,253
Number of Tree City USA communities: 81
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 11

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Rhode Island

Program Overview

In partnership with the USDA Forest Service, the Rhode Island U&CF Program focuses on restoring and maintaining the State's green infrastructure. This goal is accomplished through successful efforts to promote and distribute the Rhode Island Urban and Community Forest Plan through the mandated comprehensive planning process of each city and town. The Division of Forest Environment also maintains strong partnerships with community tree groups and the Rhode Island Tree Council by promoting tree planting, tree inventories, urban forestry workshops, and field tours.

Program Accomplishments

The Rhode Island Tree Council has established "Tree Action," a television program featured weekly on the Rhode Island public access channel. Topics have been wide ranging and include correct pruning techniques, proper tree selection, and dramatic visual illustrations of tree mulching. One program was devoted to the Asian longhorned beetle in the belief that a well-informed public is the best defense against the scourge. Rave reviews for the stars and topics have kept the telephones and e-mail busy with inquiries and discussions.

Citizen volunteers become Rhode Island Tree Stewards by enrolling in an intensive course of classroom and hands-on instruction, and by volunteering 30 hours of "tree" service. The course is offered in the spring and fall with approximately 30 people in each course. To date, 323 people have taken the course. They now perform myriad tasks, from assisting with mailings in the office to developing a tree farm. Every city and town in the State has tree stewards who are implementing the urban forestry program in their communities.

The Rhode Island Tree Council's 2002 Annual Conference on Urban Forestry attracted 120 people to discuss "Wires and Trees." Since many communities are struggling with poor tree-trimming practices, the conference highlighted speakers from States that had successfully developed strategies for reducing conflict between trees and utilities.



William Ellery Park in Newport was the setting for Deborah Gangloff, executive director of American Forests, to present Jan Reitsma, director of the Department of Environmental Management, with one of 14 tulip poplar seedlings propagated from seeds of the last remaining Liberty Tree from the 13 original colonies. This icon of the Colonial Revolution lives on in the seedlings from the four-century-old tree whose remnants became 400 acoustic guitars.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 40
Number of communities assisted: 40
Number of days of volunteer assistance: 1,160
Number of hours of training provided: 2,000
Number of Tree City USA communities: 7
Number of seedlings planted: 3,100
Number of trees planted: 307

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Vermont

Program Overview

The Vermont U&CF Program mission is to "promote the stewardship of urban and rural forest landscapes to enhance the quality of life in Vermont communities." This mission recognizes the need to address environmental, economic, and social values of forests from the urban core, to suburban developments, to rural forest land. In partnership with the USDA Forest Service, the program focuses on issues relating to developing sustainable community programs by building in-house technical capacity, active community volunteerism, a basic assessment of needs, and recognition of the role trees and forests contribute to economic development and smart growth.

Program Accomplishments

Vermont's grant program provided financial assistance to 48 communities and organizations for a wide range of planning, planting, and maintenance projects. The program held its annual Stewardship of the Urban Landscape (SOUL) leadership program, a 35-hour training program for community residents wishing to learn more about trees and community forestry.

One graduate of this year's SOUL program has stopped the practice of tree topping in her town, Newport. Before attending the class, Roxana Bailey had never heard of a tree warden or the concept of community forestry. During the 11-week program, she learned that tree topping was an unacceptable practice. Noticing that most of the public trees in her town were topped, she approached the town and found out the tree warden position was vacant and city leaders did not intend to fill it. Both public and private trees suffered from severe, repetitive topping and were posing safety risks. Through several presentations at public meetings, she was able to convince the city council to reinstate the tree warden

position and to stop the practice of tree topping. She was soon appointed as the tree warden and in the 5 months since has worked one-on-one with city employees, teaching them how to properly plant, mulch, and prune trees. She has raised funds to plant memorial trees, coordinated community youth in planting seedlings along the river through town, and held a tree-planting and care workshop for the community. She is now forming a Tree Board and is working on initiatives to manage the municipal forests, partnering with the forestry instructor at the local technical high school. She claims her participation in the SOUL program has given her the strength to stand up in front of a group and the confidence to speak knowledgeably about proper urban forestry practices. Newport has long been one of the U&CF Program's "target" communities to help establish a proactive community forestry program.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 147
Number of communities assisted: 145
Number of hours of training provided: 330
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 3,900
Number of Tree City USA communities (or equivalent): 2
Number of trees planted: 220

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West Virginia

Program Overview

The West Virginia U&CF Program provides technical assistance to municipal governments in the long-term care of trees on public property. Three positions now comprise the urban forestry staff and deliver the program statewide. The program helps cities and towns develop guidelines for tree maintenance, form citizen-based tree boards, and advocate sustained tree care. Additional support is offered in the inventory and assessment of all public trees to help develop management plans to guide the efficient allocation of local staff and financial resources. The West Virginia U&CF Program helps communities develop these skills through training, educational material, and personal contacts, and also provides financial support.

Program Accomplishments

The U&CF Program produced several new educational and technical products in FY 2002. Examples include a *Trees for Cities and Communities* brochure, diagrammed planting instructions for volunteers participating in the National Tree Trust and Mountaineer Treeways programs, fact sheets for community tree boards covering many aspects of care, and workshop presentations on topics such as proper pruning techniques.

The program also provided technical assistance to the following eight cities and towns in the State's Eastern Panhandle: Bolivar, Charles Town, Harpers Ferry, Keyser, Martinsburg, Moorefield, Ranson, and Wardensville. These communities are at various levels of urban forestry program development, but share some common tree care needs such as significant conflicts between trees and utility lines. Municipal governments and electric utilities in this region of the State have forged new and stronger partnerships, resulting in agreements to replace large, declining trees under overhead utility lines.

As a result of program assistance, the town of Moorefield has a new tree board and is working on an ordinance requiring trees to be installed in newly established parking lots. In addition, an educational trail in Town Park received direct assistance in the removal of trees in hazardous condition.



West Virginia Division of Forestry, U&CF Program hosted many workshops in 2002, including this pruning workshop in Moorefield, WV.

The West Virginia U&CF Program's increased staff capacity will enable the program to address the complex urban forestry issues that the State faces. Those issues range from urban sprawl and development to proper tree care and advanced municipal tree ordinances.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 51
Number of communities receiving assistance: 51
Number of hours of training provided: 128
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 210
Number of trees planted: 1,909
Number of Tree City USA communities: 13
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 4

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Wisconsin

Program Overview

Wisconsin's urban forest resource covers more than 1.7 million acres and is home to more than 4.3 million people. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources provides urban forestry assistance to local governments, nongovernmental organizations, businesses, and other interested groups through the Urban Forestry Working Group led by a State coordinator, six regional coordinators, and three half-time assistants. This group, in partnership with the Wisconsin Urban Forestry Council, develops statewide policy and implements it through a team approach.

Program Accomplishments

Wisconsin, partnered with USDA Forest Service Forest Health Monitoring, joined with three other States to pilot two new Urban Forest Health Monitoring protocols. The intent of the protocols is to standardize methods of assessing the urban forest resource to enable science-based decisionmaking and planning. Stage one assessed the entire resource across ownerships, duplicating the Forest Inventory and Assessment (FIA) plot design. Stage two assessed only urban street rights-of-way where communities have the most management authority. Data from these pilots will help refine the protocols and develop methods to implement them nationally. Wisconsin provides 50/50 cost-share urban forestry grants using State and Federal funds. In FY 2002, 61 grants were awarded to local government and nonprofit groups.

The urban forestry program revised its strategic plan in a successful effort to update its goals and objectives, establish more specific performance measures, and improve its usefulness. Responding to the findings of the DNR's multiyear urban forestry program study, the plan not only identifies new directions and partners, but also contains a detailed implementation plan and specific output and outcome-based performance measures for each of its seven goals.

Urban forestry's flagship publication, *The Forest Where We Live*, was revised and republished. This 16-page, full-color bulletin was featured as a center supplement

to the Wisconsin Natural Resources Magazine, which has more than 400,000 readers. An additional 25,000 copies were reprinted to use as the foundation for technical and public awareness efforts. In a more local effort, urban forestry was featured in *Wisconsin Forests Forever 2002*, an annual supplement in the Wausau Daily Herald, in an effort to integrate urban forestry with traditional forestry in the northcentral part of the State.

FY 2002 marked the 10th anniversary of the DNR partnership with the Wisconsin Arborist Association (WAA) to conduct an annual conference and trade show. In 1992, the WAA annual conference attracted about 250 attendees and 30 show vendors. Currently, the combined annual and urban forestry conference boasts 600 participants and 60 trade show vendors.

With 139 Tree City USA communities, Wisconsin ranks 3rd in the Nation. The 30 Tree City USA Growth Awards rank it 4th in the Nation. All five of the Wisconsin investor-owned utilities, plus two electric co-ops and one municipal utility, achieved Tree Line USA, which ranks it 1st in the Nation, tied only with Texas.

Statistical Highlights

Number of participating communities: 290
Number of communities assisted: 216
Number of hours of training provided: 4,906
Number of days of volunteer assistance to program: 2,450
Number of Tree City USA communities: 139
Number of Tree City USA Growth Awards: 30

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